Mechanised sorting system

40. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL; Will the Minister of COMMUNICAv TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to instal mechanised sorting and coding machines for sorting out letters in major metro cities in the country as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 10th February, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the cities likely to be covered during 1993-94 and during the Eighth Plan period, indicating the budgetary provision made therefor during the said period;

(c) what is the capacity of each machine for sorting out letters per hour and how many employees in the Department of Posts are likely to be declared surplus in this process;

(d) what alternative plan Government have envisaged for retention of such employees in cities, like Bombay, Delhi, Madras etc.;

(e) whether the staff associations unions have been taken into confidence before the mechanisation and moderni sation of areas relating to sorting of mails and other thrust areas identified for this purpose; and

(f) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During 1993-94, it is proposed to instal an automatic integrated mail processing system comprising two Letter Sorting Machines and thirty Coding Desks at Madras, During the 8th Plan Period, another such system is proposed to be installed at Delhi. In the current Five Year Plan, a budgetary provision of Rs. 66 crores have been made for mail processing systems.

(c) Each Letter Sorting Machine has a maximum output of 30,000 letters per hour. The manual Coding Desks whose output is fed manually into the sorting machines are expected to give an output of 2500 letters per hour. On installation of this equipment in Bombay during 1992-93, it is estimated that about: 85 sorters are expected to be rendered surplus but there will be *no* retrenchment.

(d) The surplus manpower will be utilized against existing vacancies.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. A background paper on mail mechanisation has been furnished to the recognised staff Federa tions. A number of meetings have since been held with the unions and their views have been obtained. There is a Standing Committee of the Depart mental Council of the JCM for examin ing the various aspects of mechanised sorting system Regular meetings of this Standing Committee and also meet ings at other levels, are held. The viewg. of the Staff Unions are taken into account while implementing the decision taken in this matter.

Steug to encourage pay phone scheme

41. SHRI GOPALSINH H. G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of advertisements given in local news papers for new communications of pay phones scheme in Gujarat and Union Territory of Delhi in the year 1992 till the 31st December;

(b) what are the total collections from pay phones in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar during the last twelve months ending 31st December, 1992;

(c) whether any fresh guidelines are being issued for the benefit of the •weaker sections and Scheduled Castes and Tribes in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the number of pay phones proposed to be given in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar and other areas during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?